

Three Nocturnes

For Viola and Piano

2010

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I am an inveterate night owl and nocturnal Rambler so the composition of nocturnes comes naturally to me. These titles of these three pieces stem from several passages in Wordsworth's poetic autobiography, *The Prelude*:

A pensive feeling! It spread far and wide;
The trees, the mountains shared it, and the brooks,
The stars of Heaven, now seen in their old haunts--
White Sirius glittering o'er the southern crags,
Orion with his belt, and those fair Seven. . .
[A feeling] embodied on a public road,
When, for the night deserted, it assumes
A character of quiet more profound
Than pathless wastes. (IV. 241-45, 366-68)

I found

A little boat tied to a willow tree
Within a rocky cave, its usual home.
Straight I unloosed her chain, and stepping in
Pushed from the shore. It was an act of stealth
And troubled pleasure, nor without the voice
Of mountain-echoes did my boat move on;
Leaving behind her still, on either side,
Small circles glittering idly in the moon,
Until they melted all into one track
Of sparkling light. (I. 357- 67)

Then, sometimes, in that silence, while he hung
Listening, a gentle shock of mild surprise
Has carried far into his heart the voice
Of mountain-torrents; or the visible scene
Would enter unawares into his mind. (V. 406-410)

"Star and Shadow" is a twilight piece in which lyrical melancholy floats on a current of stronger feeling the music acknowledges but—almost—keeps in check. "Ripple and Glean" alternates between serenity and touches of ambivalent mystery, both suggested by the impression of distant light reflected on the water. "In That Silence" is quiet enough to dwell on the threshold of silence and sometimes yield to mysterious interruptions by it that reveal something—or nothing—on the other side of sound.

"Three Nocturnes" was composed between 2010 and 2014. It lasts about 16 minutes as a whole, but any of the pieces may be played independently. "Star and Shadow" also exists in a version for trumpet and piano.

Star and Shadow

♩ = 72

Viola

Piano

p

f *pp* *p*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.*

6

mp *mf* *mp*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.*

11

V V

p

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

Star and Shadow

2

15

fp

pp *p*

Red. * Red. *

19

fp *sf*

* *

23

f *sf*

mp *f*

* Red. * Red. *

Star and Shadow

27 *mf* 3 3 3 3 3

Musical score for measures 27-30. The piece is in 3/4 time. The first system (measures 27-29) features a treble clef with a melodic line of eighth notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measure 30) shows a change in dynamics to *f* and the introduction of triplets in both hands. The bass clef includes a *ped.* marking with an asterisk.

30 *f* *mp* *p* 3 3 3 3

Musical score for measures 30-33. The first system (measures 30-31) features a treble clef with a melodic line of eighth notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measures 32-33) shows a change in dynamics to *p* and the introduction of triplets in both hands. The bass clef includes a *ped.* marking with an asterisk.

34 *p* *rit.* 3 3 3 3

Musical score for measures 34-37. The first system (measures 34-35) features a treble clef with a melodic line of eighth notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measures 36-37) shows a change in dynamics to *p* and the introduction of triplets in both hands. The piece concludes with a *rit.* marking and a *ped.* marking with an asterisk.

Star and Shadow

4

36 *a tempo*
pizz. arco

mp *p*

* Ped. * Ped.

39

mp *p*

42

mp *p*

Star and Shadow

44

44

fp

This system contains measures 44 and 45. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 44-45. The middle staff is in treble clef, starting at measure 44 with a slur and three triplet markings. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, showing a few notes in measures 44 and 45.

46

46

This system contains measures 46 and 47. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, featuring a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *fp*. The middle staff is in treble clef, starting at measure 46 with a slur and three triplet markings. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, showing a few notes in measures 46 and 47.

48

48

mp *mf* *f*

mp *mf* *f*

This system contains measures 48 and 49. The top staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, featuring a melodic line with a slur and dynamic markings of *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The middle staff is in treble clef, starting at measure 48 with a slur and three triplet markings, and dynamic markings of *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, showing a few notes in measures 48 and 49.

Star and Shadow

6

50

Musical score for measures 50-52. The system includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Measure 50 features a piano (*p*) dynamic with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. Measures 51 and 52 continue with piano accompaniment, including triplets and accents.

53

Musical score for measures 53-55. Measure 53 has a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 54 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 55 has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The system includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Measure 53 includes a *Red.* (Reduction) marking. Measure 54 includes a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking. Measure 55 includes a *Red.* marking.

56

Musical score for measures 56-58. Measure 56 has a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 57 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 58 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The system includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. Measure 56 includes a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking. Measure 57 includes a *Red.* marking. Measure 58 includes a *Red.* marking.

Star and Shadow

59 *allarg.* *sul tasto* *pizz.* *arco molto sul tasto* *sul tasto ordin.* *ordin.*

62 *a tempo*

65

Star and Shadow

8

70 *rit.*

p *pp*

p *pp*

Ped.

74 *a tempo* *pizz.*

fp *f* *mp*

fp *sfz* *p*

78 *arco* *rit.*

3 *3* *3* *3*

81 *a tempo*

subito p *fp*

85 *pizz.* *allarg.* *arco*

mp *ff* *p* *p*

Adagio ♩ = 48

89

sfz *sfz* *ff*³ *sfz*

Star and Shadow

10

Tempo I

Musical score for measures 93-96. The score is written for a single melodic line in bass clef. Measure 93 starts with a *sfz* dynamic. Measure 94 has a *fff* dynamic. Measure 95 features a triplet of eighth notes with a *ff* dynamic and a *V* marking above the final note. Measure 96 has a *fff* dynamic. The piano accompaniment consists of whole rests in both staves.

Musical score for measures 97-100. The score is written for a single melodic line in bass clef. Measure 97 is marked *pizz.* and *mp*. Measure 98 is marked *p*. Measure 99 is marked *pp*. Measure 100 is marked *arco*. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*.

Musical score for measures 101-104. The score is written for a single melodic line in bass clef. Measure 101 is marked *pp*. Measure 102 is marked *pp*. Measure 103 is marked *rit.*. Measure 104 ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Dynamics include *pp*.

Ripple and Gleam

♩ = 84

sul pont. slide to - - -

Viola

Piano

8va
p
3
p
3
p
8va
p
Ped.

5 ordin. pizz. arco

Viola

Piano

5
ordin.
pizz. arco
f
p
3
3
3
p
3
3
5
8vb

8 *espress.* *rit.* *a tempo* *ordin.*
sul tasto *3*

Viola

Piano

8
espress.
rit.
a tempo
ordin.
sul tasto
3
cresc.
8va
p
fp
fp
loco

Ripple and Gleam

2

12

f *pp*

f pluck string

mp pluck string

Ped. * Ped.

17

rit. espress.

p *pp* *ppp* *p*

8va

a tempo

mp

loco

* Ped.

21

p *fp* *fp* *p*

espress.

mf *p*

* Ped.

Ripple and Gleam

25 *a tempo* sul tasto

f *p* *pp*

p *pp* *p* *pp*

Ped. * *simile*

28

p *pp*

p *pp*

31 *8va* ordin.

p *pp* *p*

p *pp* *p* *pp*

Ped. *8vb*

Ripple and Gleam

4

35

p *mp*

39

p *mf* *rit.*

42 *a tempo*

p *mf* *p* *p*

45

Musical score for measures 45-46. The score is in 3/4 time and features a piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic range. The right hand (RH) plays a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand (LH) provides harmonic support with triplets and chords. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

47

Musical score for measures 47-48. The score continues with piano (p) dynamics. The RH features slurs and accents, and the LH includes triplets and chords. The key signature remains one flat.

49

pizz. arco

Musical score for measures 49-50. The score begins with a *pizz. arco* instruction. The RH features a melodic line with slurs and accents, and the LH includes chords and a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. The key signature has one flat.

Ripple and Gleam

6

51

51

f *p* *pp* *fp*

3 3

8va

8vb

Detailed description: This system covers measures 51 to 53. The upper staff (treble clef) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a triplet of eighth notes. The lower staff (bass clef) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and also contains a triplet of eighth notes. The music transitions through various dynamics: piano (*p*), pianissimo (*pp*), and fortissimo (*fp*). A trill-like figure is present in the upper staff. The system concludes with a fermata over a whole note in the bass staff, marked with an *8vb* dynamic.

54

54

pp *fp* *fp* *p*

sul pont.

8va

8vb

Detailed description: This system covers measures 54 to 56. The upper staff (treble clef) starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and includes a fortissimo (*fp*) dynamic. A *sul pont.* (sul ponticello) instruction is placed above the staff. The lower staff (bass clef) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The system ends with a fermata over a whole note in the bass staff, marked with an *8vb* dynamic.

57

57

ordin. sul pont. ordin. pizz. *p* *mf*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 57 to 60. The upper staff (treble clef) features a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes instructions for *ordin.* (normal), *sul pont.* (sul ponticello), and *ordin.* (normal). A *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction is placed above the staff. The lower staff (bass clef) starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and transitions to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The system concludes with a fermata over a whole note in the bass staff.

Ripple and Gleam

59

arco

mf *pp*

p *pp*

62

sul tasto

fp

p *p*

66

ordin.

cresc. *mf* *f*

p *mf* *f*

Ripple and Gleam

8

69 *rit.*

ff

72 *a tempo*
pizz. arco

rit. espress.

p *fp* *3* *3* *fp* *3* *3* *p* *f*

p *#8* *8* *mp*

76 *a tempo*
pizz.

mp

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Red. * *simile*

Ripple and Gleam

79

arco
mf
3
3
r.h. r.h.

82

p 3 *f* 3

85

f 3
8va

Ripple and Gleam

10

87 *ff* *rit.* *a tempo*

90 *f* *f* *Red.* * *simile*

93 *f* *p* *ordin.* *p* *pp*

Ripple and Gleam

(8va) -----

96

96

p

99

mf *p* *p* *p*

99

mf *p* *p*

101

pizz. *arco*

mf *p* *cresc.* *cresc.*

101

p *cresc.*

Ripple and Gleam

12

103

f

f

106

mp

pp

pp una corda

109

pizz.

arco

mf

p

pp

sul tasto

Ripple and Gleam

112 ordin. sul tasto rit.

112

114 a tempo rit. ordin.

114

114

Lea. *

In that Silence

♩ = 80

Viola

Piano

p dim.

ppp

V 5

5

5

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the score. The Viola part (bass clef, 4/4 time) is mostly silent, with a *ppp* dynamic marking. It features a half note G2 in measure 3, followed by a sixteenth-note triplet of G2, F2, and E2 in measure 4, and another sixteenth-note triplet of G2, F2, and E2 in measure 5. The Piano part (treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time) begins in measure 1 with a *p dim.* dynamic. The right hand plays a half note G4, followed by a half note F4 in measure 2, and a half note E4 in measure 3. The left hand plays a sixteenth-note triplet of G3, F3, and E3 in measure 1, followed by a half note G2 in measure 2, and another sixteenth-note triplet of G3, F3, and E3 in measure 3. A *ppp* dynamic marking is present in measure 3. Measure 4 is silent for both parts.

5

5

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 through 8. The Viola part (bass clef, 4/4 time) has a *ppp* dynamic marking. It features a half note G2 in measure 5, followed by a half note F2 in measure 6, and a half note E2 in measure 7. In measure 8, it plays a sixteenth-note triplet of G2, F2, and E2. The Piano part (treble and bass clefs, 4/4 time) continues from measure 4. The right hand plays a half note G4 in measure 5, followed by a half note F4 in measure 6, and a half note E4 in measure 7. The left hand plays a half note G2 in measure 5, followed by a half note F2 in measure 6, and a half note E2 in measure 7. In measure 8, it plays a sixteenth-note triplet of G2, F2, and E2. A *ppp* dynamic marking is present in measure 8.

10 *pizz.*

Musical score for measures 10-13. The top staff is a single bass clef line with triplets and a pizzicato marking. The bottom part consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, showing piano accompaniment with chords and single notes.

14 *arco* *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

8va

Musical score for measures 14-17. The top staff is a single bass clef line with arco marking and a 8va instruction. The bottom part is a grand staff with piano accompaniment including triplets and dynamics like p, dim., and ppp.

19

5

5

5

V

19

p

ppp

3

23

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

23

27 $\sharp e$ $\sharp e$

pp

32

3 3 3 3

36

ppp

36

ppp

39

ppp

39

44

pizz. arco *pizz. arco* *pizz. arco* *pizz. arco*

cresc. *cresc.* *mp*

pp *cresc.* *mp*

48

pizz. *arco*

p *pp* *ppp*

p *dim.* *pp* *ppp*

53 *pppp* sul D

53 *pppp*

59 *ppp* sul C

59 *ppp*

63

63

8va

loco

67

67

71

Musical score for measures 71-72. The system consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 71 features a complex bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 72 continues the bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note. The grand staff shows a treble clef with a whole note chord in measure 71 and a half note chord in measure 72. The bass clef of the grand staff has a half note chord in measure 71 and a half note chord in measure 72.

73

Musical score for measures 73-76. The system consists of three staves: a single bass staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. Measure 73 features a complex bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 74 continues the bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note. The grand staff shows a treble clef with a whole note chord in measure 73 and a half note chord in measure 74. The bass clef of the grand staff has a half note chord in measure 73 and a half note chord in measure 74.